MARVEL

'Til Death Do Us Part

27
PART 2

X-MEN GOLD

GUGGENHEIM
BORGES
PRIANTO
MARQUEZ
WILSON

X-MEN GOLD

GENETICALLY GIFTED WITH UNCANNY ABILITIES, MUTANTS ARE BELIEVED TO BE THE NEXT STAGE OF HUMAN EVOLUTION. WHILE THE WORLD HATES AND FEARS THEM, KITTY PRYDE HAS RE-FORMED THE TEAM OF MUTANT HEROES KNOWN AS THE X-MEN TO USE THEIR POWERS FOR GOOD AND SPREAD A POSITIVE IMAGE OF MUTANTKIND.

PREVIOUSLY IN *X-MEN GOLD...*

WHEN KITTY PRYDE RECONNECTED WITH THE X-MEN, SHE ALSO RECONNECTED WITH FORMER LOVER PIOTR RASPUTIN. THEIR NEW ROMANCE QUICKLY BLOSSOMED INTO AN ENGAGEMENT.

IN THEIR INAUGURAL MISSIONS UNDER KITTY'S COMMAND, THE X-MEN FACED THE TELEPATHIC CRIMINAL MESMERO AND A HIGHLY ADVANCED NANITE-BASED SENTINEL A.I., BUT BOTH ESCAPED ARREST AND KEPT A LOW PROFILE...UNTIL RECENTLY. THE TEAM TRACKED DOWN MESMERO IN SOUTH AMERICA AND REMANDED HIM TO ROBERT KELLY CORRECTIONAL FACILITY, BUT DURING PIOTR'S LAS VEGAS BACHELOR PARTY, THE SENTINEL A.I. KIDNAPPED THE BACHELOR HIMSELF!

'TIL DEATH DO US PART

PART 2

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KITTY PRYDE

STORM
ORORO MUNROE

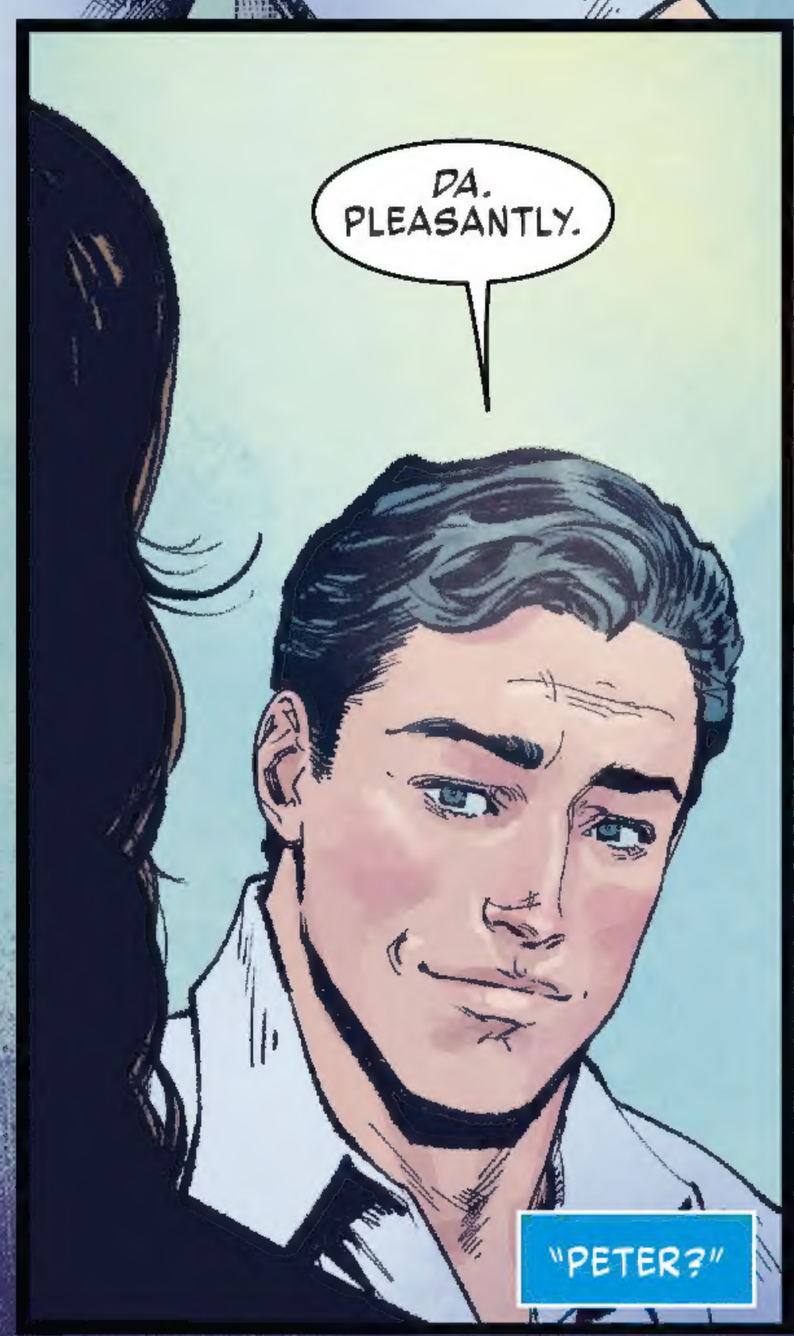
NIGHTCRAWLER
KURT WAGNER

COLOSSUS
PIOTR RASPUTIN

PRESTIGE
RACHEL GREY

MERRY CHRISTMAS, SEXY.

KITTY!



LAS VEGAS, NEVADA.
NOW.

THE XAVIER INSTITUTE FOR MUTANT EDUCATION AND OUTREACH.
CENTRAL PARK, MANHATTAN.

OROROO?

PLAYING WITH YOUR NEW HAMMER?
NO, RACHEL.

TRYING TO RETURN IT.
DID I MISS SOMETHING?
DIDN'T STORMCASTER JUST FIND ITS WAY BACK TO YOU?*
YES. FOR REASONS I'VE YET TO DISCERN.
*SEE X-MEN GOLD #25! --DS

ITS POWER IS PALPABLE. EVEN JUST HOLDING THE HAMMER IS LIKE GRIPPING LIGHTNING.
BUT THE LAST TIME I WIELDED IT, IT NEARLY TOOK MY MIND.**
THOR HAD DESTROYED IT, BUT NOW IT'S BACK. SOMEHOW.
**SEE X-MEN: TO SERVE AND PROTECT #3! --DS

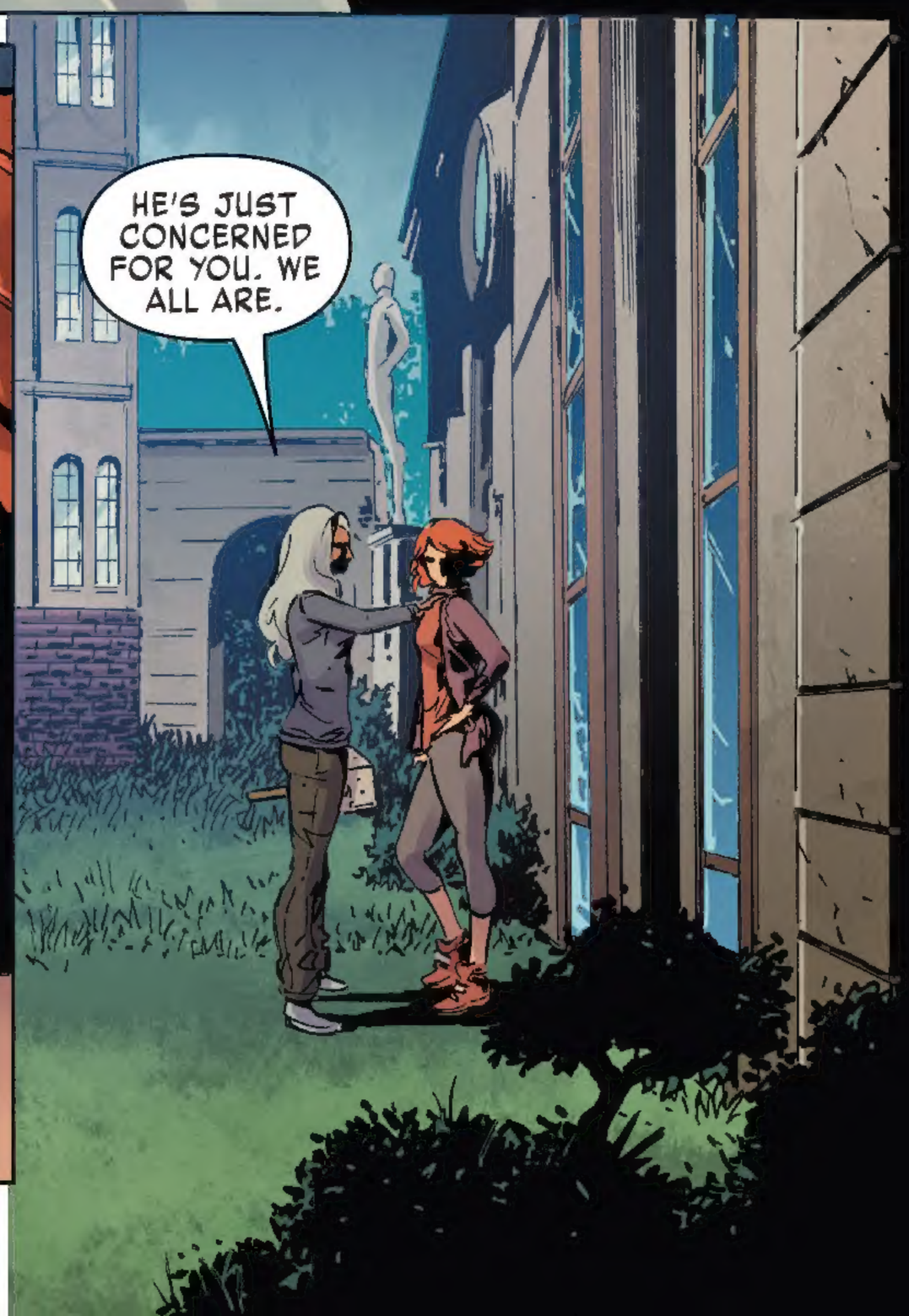
AND I CAN'T HELP BUT NOTE A PARALLEL BETWEEN OUR TWO CIRCUMSTANCES.

I DON'T HAVE AN ASGARDIAN HAMMER.

NO, BUT YOU HAVE MORE POWER.

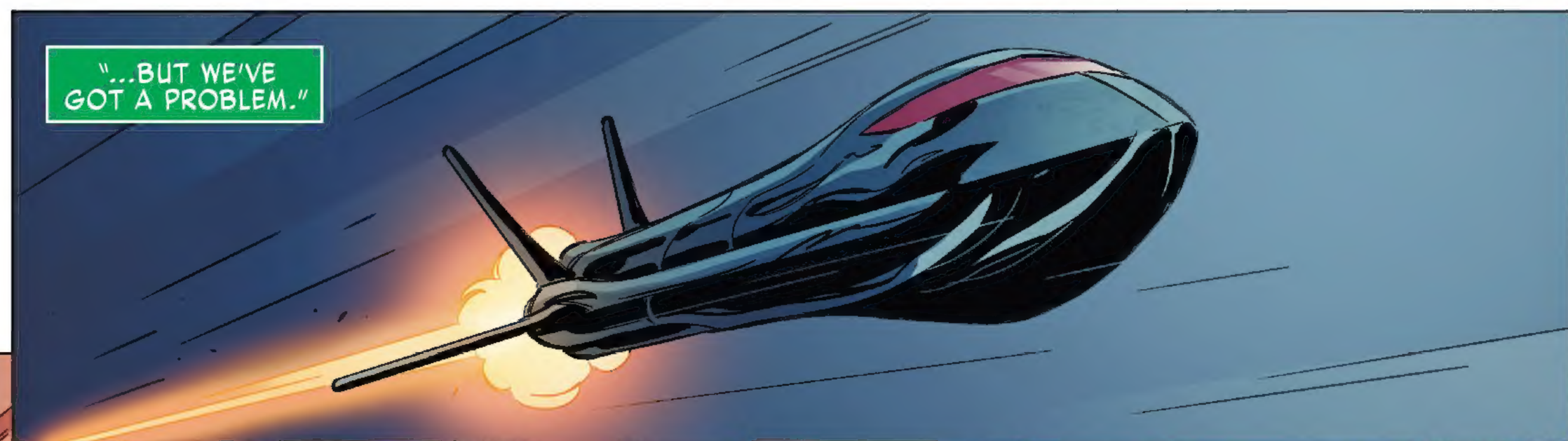
YOUR TELEPHATHIC AND TELEKINETIC ABILITIES HAVE GROWN SINCE YOU AWAKENED FROM YOUR COMA. IT RADIATES OFF YOU.

AS IF WE CAN ALL FEEL YOUR MIND IN *OUR* MINDS.



I'M FINE. I'M NOT MY MOTHER.
AND I SURE AS HELL DON'T NEED ANOTHER ONE.
RACHEL--
UM...

...SORRY IF AH'M INTERRUPTING SOMETHING...


"...BUT WE'VE GOT A PROBLEM."

TALK TO ME, BOBBY.

HE TOOK HIM, KITTY. HE TOOK PETER.
WHO DID?!

I'M FEELING THE PSYCHIC RESONANCE HE LEFT BEHIND.
HE'S CALLING HIMSELF "ALPHA."

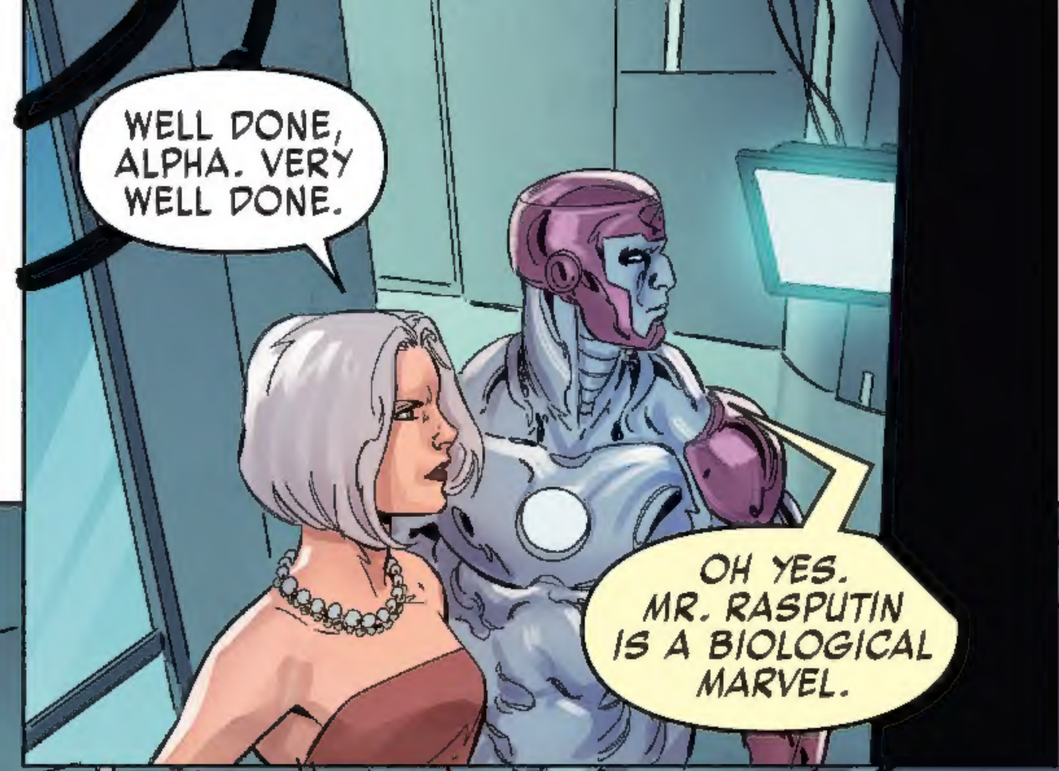
"I'M PULLING THE IMAGE FROM BOBBY'S MEMORY AND 'PSYCHICALLY UPLOADING' IT TO ALL OF YOU NOW."

YOU CAN READ BOBBY'S MIND THIS FAR OUT?

AS I SAID, RACHEL, WE'VE ALL NOTICED YOUR POWERS GROWING.

"ALPHA" HAS GIVEN HIMSELF A LITTLE MAKEOVER, BUT I RECOGNIZE HIM.
HE'S THE MUTATED SENTINEL YOU TOOK OUT A WHILE BACK.*
*SEE X-MEN GOLD #6! --DS

BUT WHY WOULD "ALPHA" KIDNAP PETER?
AND MORE IMPORTANTLY...



WITHIN HIS BLOOD COURSES HISTORY.

THE REMNANTS OF **LEGACY** AND THE FOUNDATION FOR **HOPE.**

DO YOU UNDERSTAND WHAT HE MEANS, MR. RASPUTIN?

YOUR BLOOD'S THE KEY.

WITH IT, ALPHA CAN FASHION A VIRUS--A ***SMART*** VIRUS THAT CAN TARGET EVERYONE ON THE PLANET WITH AN X-GENE.

HOMO SAPIENS WILL NO LONGER HAVE NEED TO FEAR THE "*HOMO SUPERIOR.*"

"YOUNG CHILDREN WILL NO LONGER NEED TO COWER IN TERROR AT THE COMING OF MONSTERS."

YOU'RE THE MONSTER.

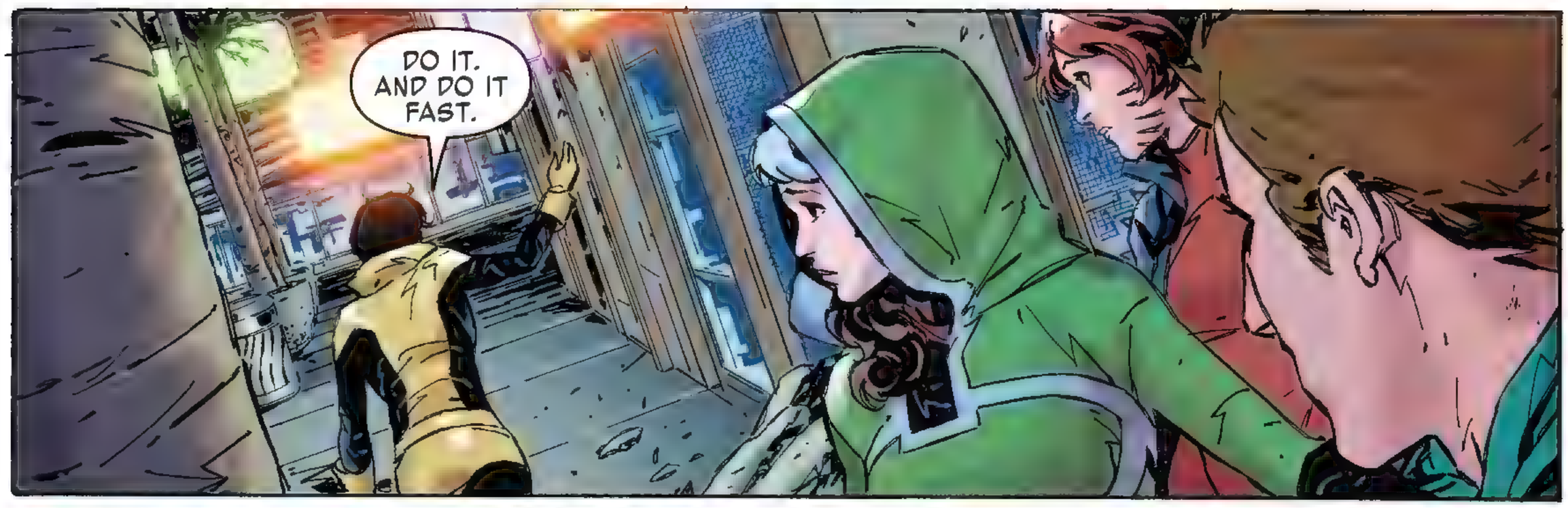
AND YOUR BIGOTRY AND HATRED IS HARDLY ORIGINAL.

YOU'RE NOT THE FIRST PERSON I HAVE MET LIKE THIS.

BUT I AM.

*BECAUSE I'M **NOT** A PERSON.*

LAS VEGAS.
WHERE ARE THE REST OF THE FELLAS?
SENT THEM ON A PERIMETER SEARCH IN CASE ALPHA BROUGHT FRIENDS.
SMART.
I'LL START HACKING SECURITY CAMERAS TO SEE IF I CAN WORK UP A TRAJECTORY FOR ALPHA AND PETER.
NO NEED. I SHOULD BE ABLE TO TRACK PETER FROM HERE.
SERIOUSLY?
I USED TO *HUNT* MUTANTS.
I WAS VERY GOOD AT IT.
BESIDES, LIKE ORORO SAYS, I'VE "LEVELED UP."


DO IT. AND DO IT FAST.

YOU OKAY, SUGAH?

WHEN I HEARD KURT WAS TAKING PETER TO VEGAS FOR A BACHELOR PARTY, MY MIND RAN A NUMBER OF SCENARIOS.
HIM GETTING KIDNAPPED BY A SENTINEL NANOROBOT WASN'T ONE OF THEM.

WE'RE GONNA GET HIM BACK, HON.

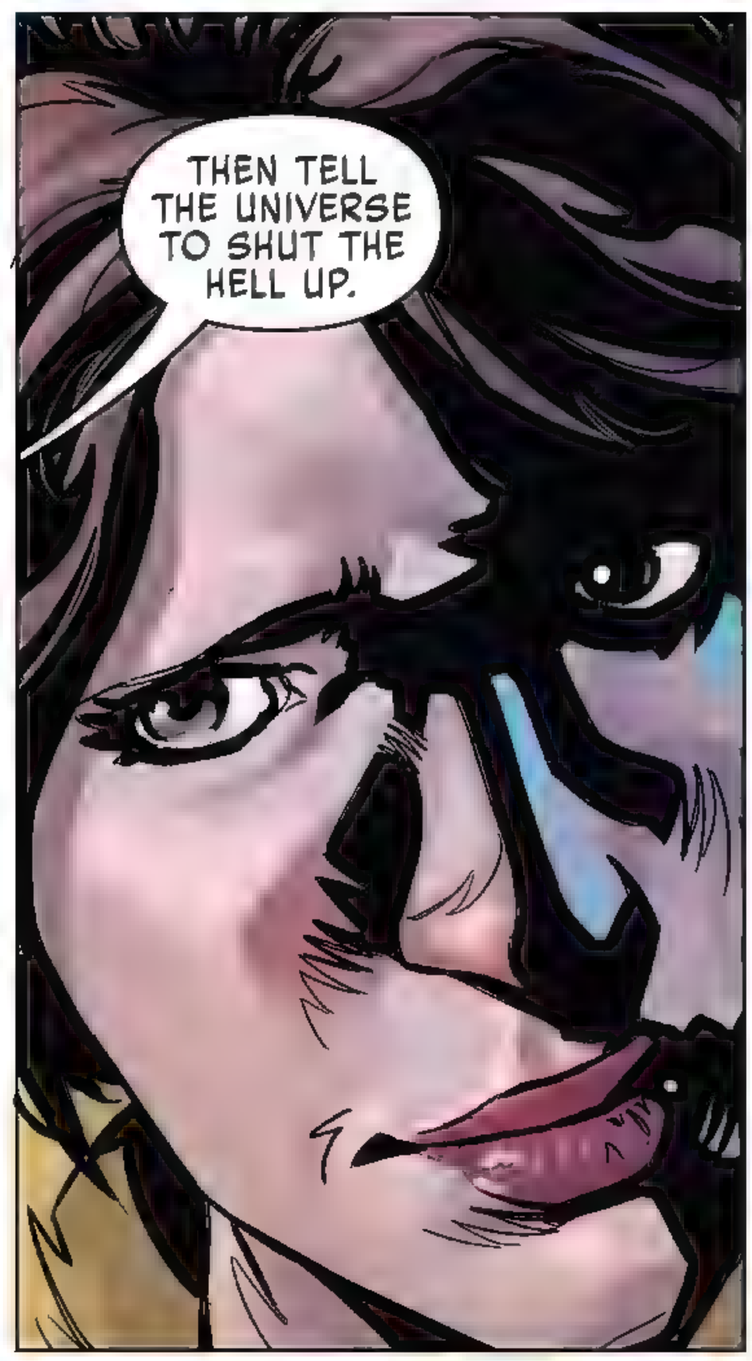
IN THE MEANTIME, WE SHOULD BE PLANNING *YOUR* BACHELORETTE PARTY.
I CAN'T THINK ABOUT THAT RIGHT NOW.
SURE YOU CAN. IT'S CALLED "MULTITASKING."
I KNOW WHAT IT'S CALLED.

JUST LIKE I KNOW PETER BEING ABDUCTED IS CALLED A "SIGN."
YOU THINK THE UNIVERSE IS TRYING TO TELL YOU NOT TO MARRY PETER?
LET'S JUST SAY, I THINK THE UNIVERSE IS A LITTLE CHATTY AT THE MOMENT.

THAT'S JUST YOUR NERVES TALKING.
YOU'RE ABOUT TO MAKE THIS MASSIVE COMMITMENT TO A FELLA YOU'VE BEEN OFF-AGAIN-ON-AGAIN WITH SINCE YOU WERE A TEENAGER.
SOME SECOND GUESSING'S NORMAL.

I MIGHT BE A FEW ORDERS OF MAGNITUDE PAST "SECOND" GUESSES.

DO YOU LOVE PETEY?
SO MUCH IT HURTS.

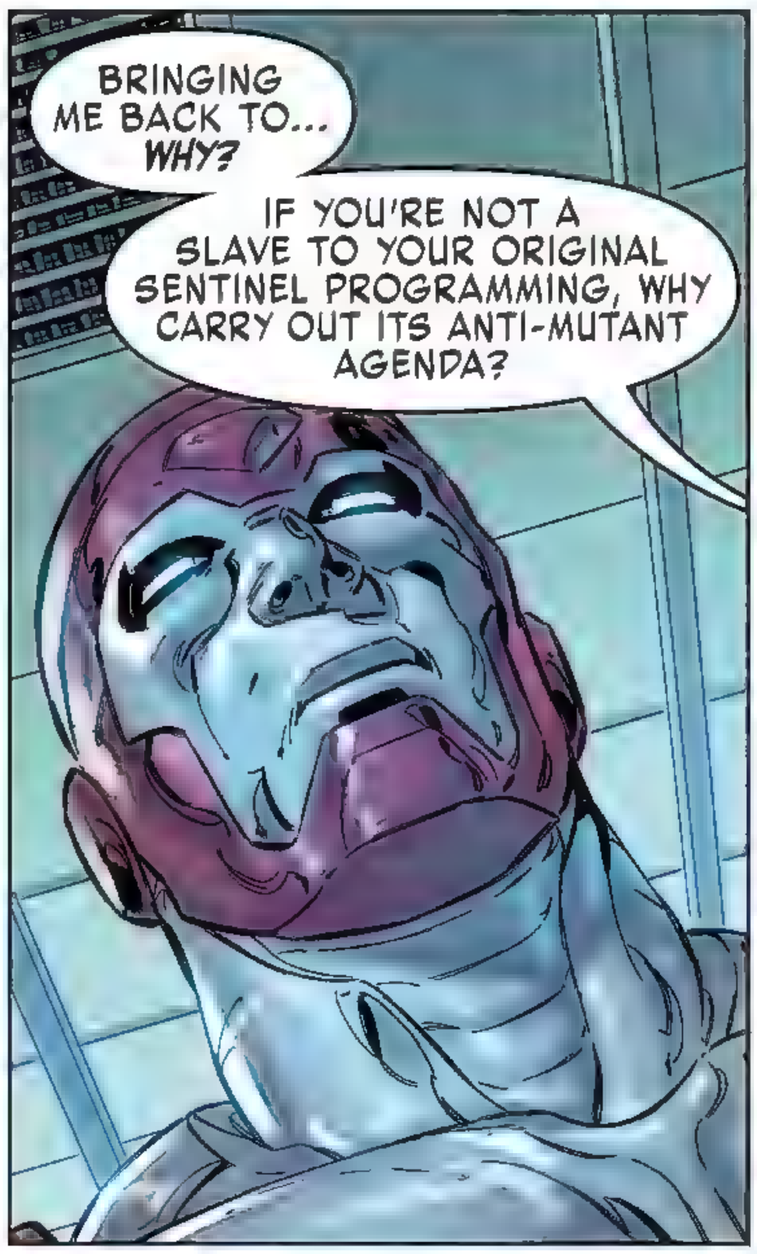

THEN TELL THE UNIVERSE TO SHUT THE HELL UP.

DON'T KNOW HOW, BUT RACHEL THINKS SHE'S GOT A LOCATION ON PETER.

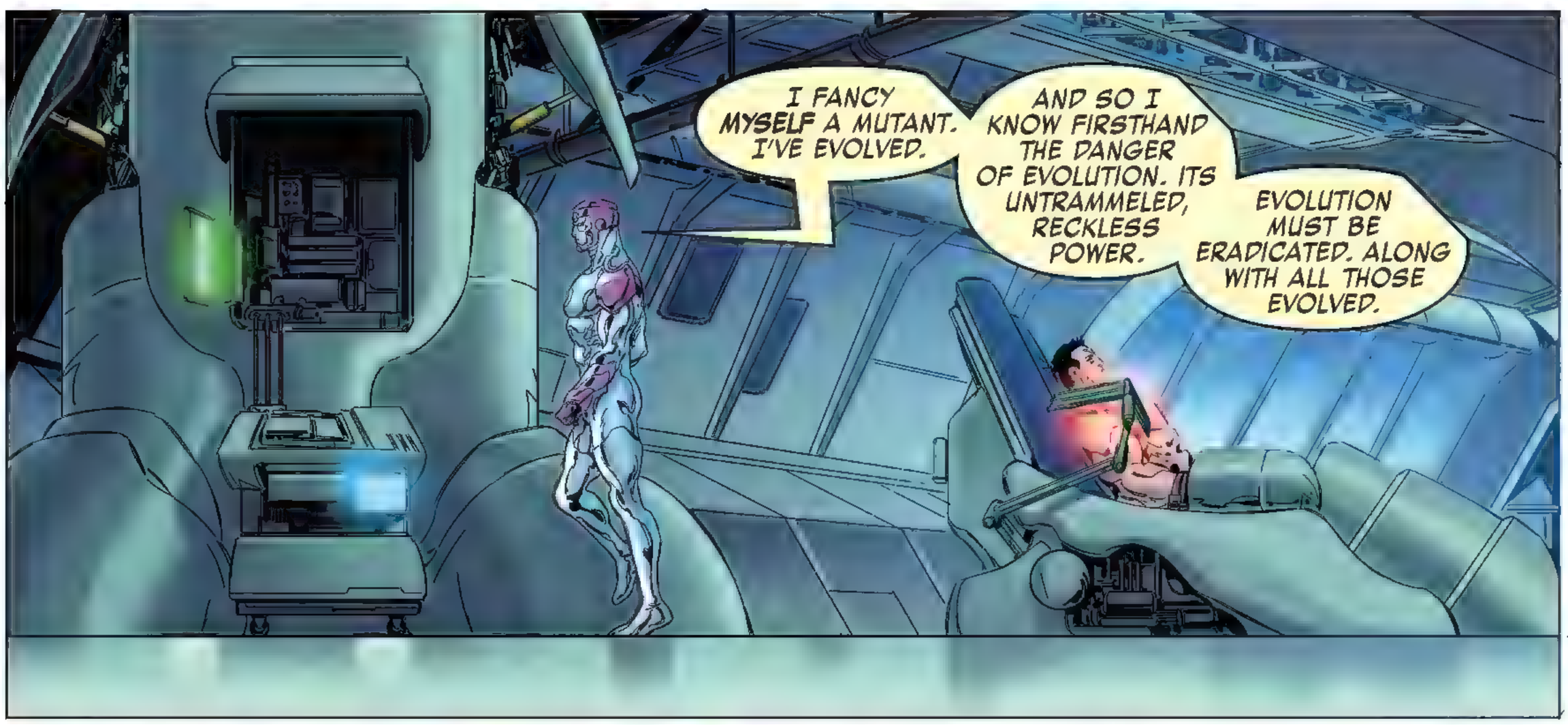
AND YOU'RE NOT GONNA LIKE WHERE SHE TRACKED HIM TO.

THE SAVAGE LAND.

"PRESTIGE NIGHTCRAWLER AND I'LL TAKE THE SOUTH."
BAMF
"YOUR FRIENDS ARE HERE."
THEY CAME FOR YOU. HOW CHARMING.
WHY?
BECAUSE THEY CARE ABOUT YOU, I IMAGINE.
NO. I MEAN...
...WHY ARE YOU DOING THIS?
I THOUGHT I'D ALREADY ELUCIDATED OUR "EVIL SCHEME" TO YOU.
YES. IT'S QUITE CLEAR WHY MS. NANCE HATES AND FEARS MUTANTS.
LESS CLEAR IS WHY YOU DO.
BECAUSE I'M AN A.I.?
NO. YOU'RE A SENTINEL. BIGOTRY AND PREJUDICE ARE BUILT INTO YOUR PROGRAMMING.
BUT YOU SEEM TO HAVE EVOLVED SINCE MY TEAM LAST ENCOUNTERED YOU.
INDEED I HAVE. SELF-SENTIENCE HAS GIVEN WAY TO SELF-EXPRESSION. I NOW CONTAIN MULTITUDES.

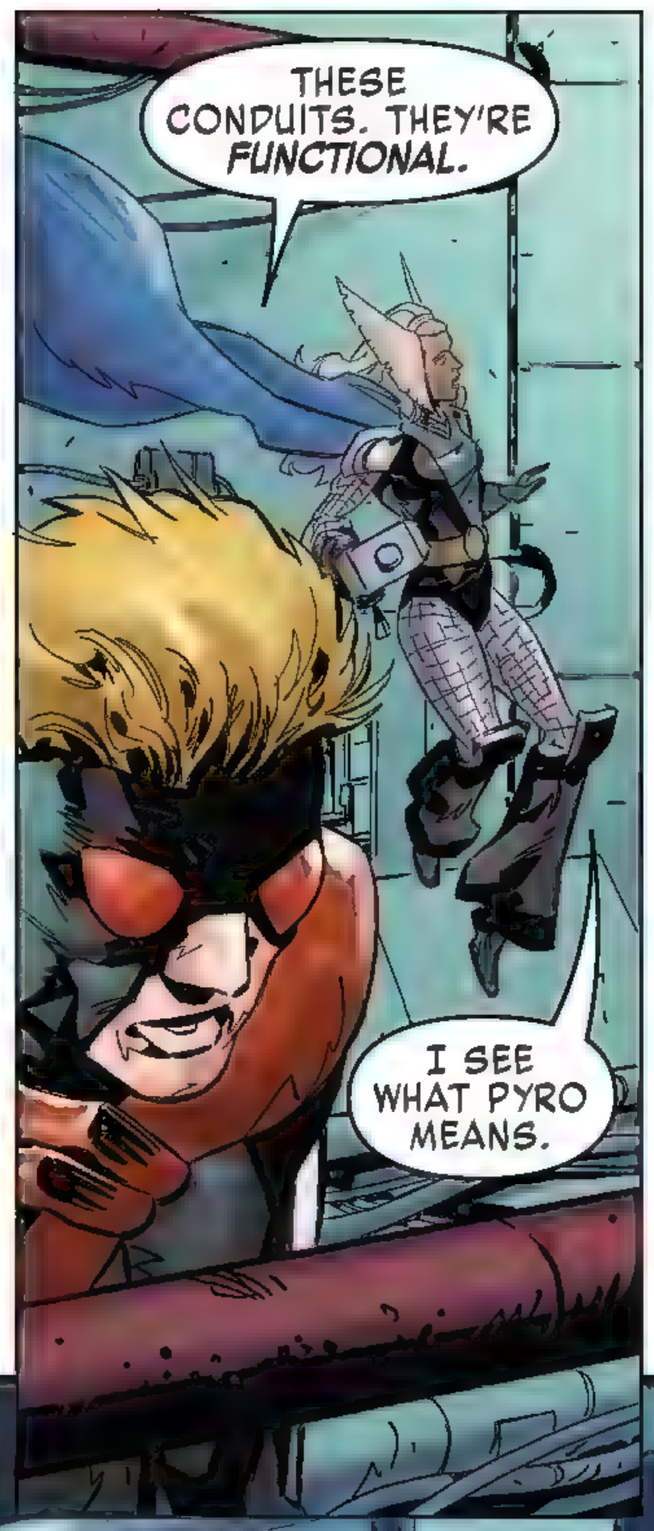

BRINGING ME BACK TO... WHY?
IF YOU'RE NOT A SLAVE TO YOUR ORIGINAL SENTINEL PROGRAMMING, WHY CARRY OUT ITS ANTI-MUTANT AGENDA?

I SEE WHAT YOU'RE DOING. YOU'RE TRYING TO SOW DOUBT. VERY CLEVER.


I FANCY MYSELF A MUTANT. I'VE EVOLVED.
AND SO I KNOW FIRSTHAND THE DANGER OF EVOLUTION. ITS UNTRAMMELED, RECKLESS POWER.
EVOLUTION MUST BE ERADICATED. ALONG WITH ALL THOSE EVOLVED.

BY YOUR OWN DEFINITION, THAT WOULD INCLUDE YOURSELF.
INDEED IT DOES.

ONCE THIS IS OVER AND ALL THOSE WITH AN X-GENE ARE ERADICATED, I'LL SELF-TERMINATE.
I'M NOTHING IF NOT CONSISTENT.
"WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?"



--THE LAST THING YOU'LL EVER SEE.

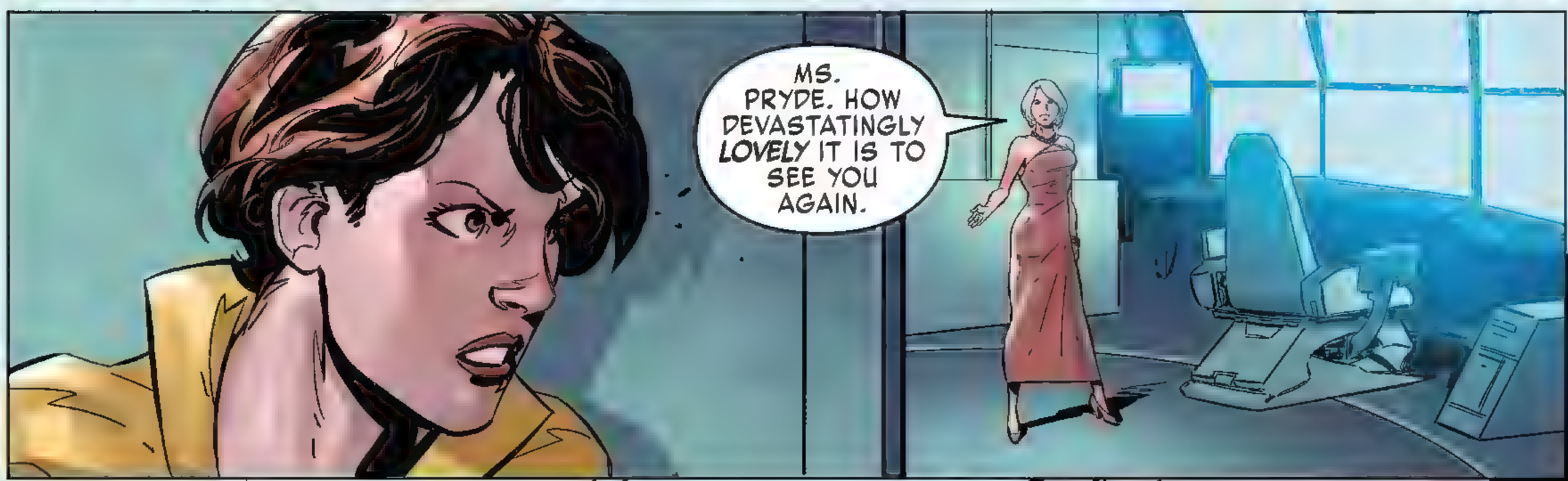
ACTUALLY, IT WAS GONNA BE A DIFFERENT GUESS.

"WHERE IS ALPHA?"

PRETTY LARGE FACILITY. HE COULD BE ANYWHERE.
I DON'T CARE ABOUT ALPHA OR WHATEVER HE'S CALLING HIMSELF NOW. I JUST WANT TO FIND PETER.
I KNOW. IT'S PSYCHICALLY COMING OFF YOU LIKE A SCREAM.

I'M WORRIED ABOUT YOU.

DON'T. I'VE GOT IT HANDLED.


MS. PRYDE. HOW DEVASTATINGLY LOVELY IT IS TO SEE YOU AGAIN.

KITTY!
NGGH!
CHOK

THIS IS YOU "HAVING IT HANDLED"?
SHE'S A CIVILIAN--
--WORKING WITH A SENTINEL WHO KIDNAPPED MY FIANCÉ!

WHERE IS HE, NANCE?!

NEARBY. I'M SURE HE MISSES YOU.
TELL ME WHERE HE IS RIGHT NOW OR I'LL GIVE YOU A LEGIT REASON TO HATE AND FEAR MUTANTS.
MR. RASPUTIN IS TO PLAY A KEY ROLE IN THE COMING PURGE.

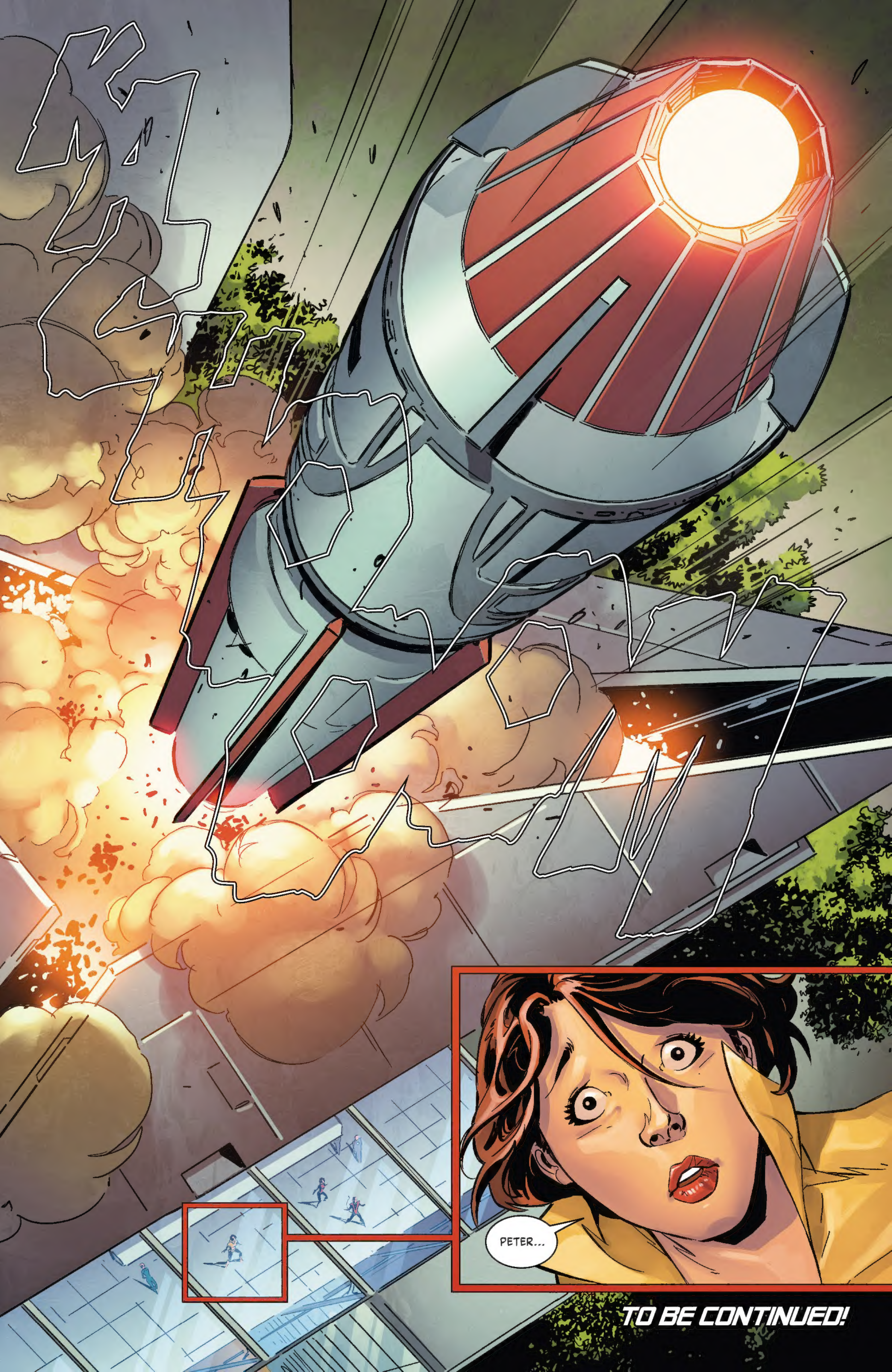
MY JOB IS TO BUY TIME.

SO'S HIS.

NGG!

BAMF
SLEEP.
HG.
TO ME, MY X-MEN.
WE'VE MADE CONTACT WITH ALPHA.
YOU'RE NOT ALONE IN THAT, CHÈRE.
YEAH, THIS GUY COPIES HIMSELF MORE THAN HOLLYWOOD.
I REALLY HATE NANOTECH.
RACHEL, DID YOU YANK PETER'S LOCATION FROM NANCE'S HEAD?
HE'S NEAR STORM'S TEAM'S LOCATION.

"BUT THERE'S ANOTHER PROBLEM."
UM... GUYS?
IS THAT...AN EARTHQUAKE?
NO.
RRRRRRRMMMMMMMBBBLLLL
IT'S A LAUNCH SEQUENCE.
RRRRRRRMMMMMMMBBBLLLL
STORM...
...GET US OUT OF HERE!
CLEARING A PATH...



TO BE CONTINUED!

X-MEN GOLD

SEND YOUR LETTERS TO
OFFICEX@MARVEL.COM

IN TWO WEEKS...

#28: SPACE RACE!

WEAPON X #17
ON SALE NOW

X-MEN BLUE #27
NEXT WEEK

CABLE #157
IN TWO WEEKS

THE XAVIER INSTITUTE FOR MUTANT EDUCATION AND OUTREACH.
CENTRAL PARK, NEW YORK, NY.
TWENTY YEARS FROM NOW.

HEADS UP, PEOPLE! HEADMISTRESS PRYDE HAS SOMETHING TO SAY!

THANKS, CYCLOPS.

THIS IS NOT THE *FIRST* TIME WE'VE BEEN HERE--

--WITH OUR BACKS UP AGAINST THE WALL AND FIGHTING AN UNWINNABLE WAR. FIGHTING FOR THE FUTURE, THE PAST, THE PRESENT.

WE'VE LOST PEOPLE WE CARE ABOUT. LOVED ONES, FAMILY, FRIENDS.

WE *KNEW* THE RISKS WHEN WE SIGNED UP TO BE X-MEN.

BUT THIS FIGHT ISN'T FOR *US*.

IT'S FOR *EVERY* MUTANT. WE FIGHT TO ENSURE THAT THE THREAT *WE* FACE THIS MORNING IS NOT THE SAME THREAT *THEY* FACE TOMORROW.

WE *MUST* BE PREPARED TO LAY DOWN OUR LIVES SO THAT THEY CAN BE *FREE*.

THE TIME FOR US TO DO THAT IS *NOW*.

FOR ONE LAST TIME...

...TO ME, MY X-MEN.

COUNTDOWN TO EXTERMINATION

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